



MINOLTA

DiALTA Di551

MAY 2003

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The DiALTA Di551 is a solid mid-volume digital copier/printer that Minolta rates at up to 55 ppm for recommended monthly volumes of up to 300,000 pages. The unit is designed for in-house print production, departmental workgroups, small and mid-sized businesses, and professional offices and institutions.

The Di551 has a number of notable features, including versatile paper handling: the unit accepts paper up to 12" x 18" for full-bleed tabloid paper capability, as well as 13 lb. bond to 110 lb. index stock. Other notable features include an embedded Fiery print controller option that provides network scanning (to e-mail, File Transfer Protocol site, or hard disk), and a tandem-copy option that enables customers to link two Di551 units for copy speeds of up to 110 ppm. The unit also provides extensive document-finishing options, including sorting/grouping, multi-position stapling, hole-punching, half-folding and saddle-stitching for booklets, and even tri-folding.

VENDOR PRODUCT-POSITIONING STATEMENT

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The information contained in the *Vendor Product Positioning Statement* below was provided by the product vendor *before* the results of the test were released. It is not intended to serve as a response to the results of the *Critical Test Report*.)

"The 55-ppm Di551 complements the extremely popular Di650 to further fortify Minolta's place as a powerful force in the Segment 4 arena. The Di551 is ideal for a variety of mid- to high-volume environments."

"In busy corporate offices, the Di551 offers an unbeatable combination of speed, throughput, finishing options, and ease-of-use that even the most casual user can quickly master. Add to this the unparalleled image quality offered by the new Polymerized Toner technology, and three different scanning options, and you've got a true 'do it all' high-volume office-imaging solution. Another natural fit for the new Di551 is as a complementary or "overflow" device in 'manned' reprographics environments such as Print for Pay (PFP), Print on Demand (POD), and corporate Central Reprographics Departments (CRD). Such environments typically require high speeds to turn jobs around quickly, large paper supplies and output capacity for hands-off long-run operation, extensive finishing capabilities and, above all, reliability and durability. With a monthly duty cycle of 300,000 pages and print/copy speeds of 55 ppm (110 ppm during tandem operation), the new DiALTA Di551 makes an excellent complementary device in most high-volume manned environments."

"An integral part of the DiALTA Di551 high-volume imaging solution is the optional Fiery Pi6500e print/scan controller. The powerful Pi6500e allows Di551 users to unleash the power of the Di551's throughput and finishing capabilities from the computer desktop. When configured with the optional PostScript/Scan Kit, the Pi6500e also enables the Di551 to act as a 55-ppm scanner. Scan to e-mail, FTP server or the Pi6500e's hard-disk drive for later retrieval from any Java-enabled Web browser are provided. The Pi6500e even offers an impressive array of both Fiery and Minolta-developed job and device management utilities."

- Minolta Corporation



CRITICAL TEST REPORT®

Digital Multifunctional Device
Electrostatic Imaging

Vendor Background

Minolta Corporation
101 Williams Drive
Ramsey, NJ 07446
(800) 9-MINOLTA
<http://www.minoltausa.com>

Minolta DiALTA Di551

Critical Specs-At-A-Glance

Rec. MPV	300,000 pages
Print Speed	55 ppm
Max. Paper Size	12"x18"
Max. Print Res.	600 dpi
Std. Paper Cap	2,500 sheets
Max. Paper Cap	7,000 sheets
Paper Wts.	13-lb. bond - 110 lb. index
Color Output/Scanning	No/No
Std. RAM	64 MB
Hard Drive	20 GB (Opt.)
Network Scanning	Yes

Tested Configuration (List Pricing)

DiALTA Di551	\$17,950
Pi6500e Controller	\$3,950
FN-113 Finisher	\$3,050
Total	\$24,950

Other Available Options

Tandem Copy	No charge*
FN-6 Booklet Finisher	\$4,500
ZK-2 Folder	\$5,575
4,400-sheet LCT	\$2,000
4,000-sheet LCT	\$3,185**
*Requires common cross-over cable available in most computer stores.	
**Accepts 12" x 18" paper.	

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DEVICE OVERVIEW

ENGINE

Minolta Rated Speed	55 ppm
Minolta Rated FPOT	3.4 seconds
Resolution	600 dpi
Rec. Monthly Page Volume	300,000 pages

PAPER CAPACITIES

Std Supply	2x500 sheets; 1,500-sheet drawer
Sizes	5.5"x8.5"/12"x18"
Paper Weights	13 lb. bond -110 lb. index
Paper Trays	2x500-sheets; 1,500 sheets
Opt. LCT	4,400/4,000 sheets
Max. Supply	7,000 sheets
Bypass	100 sheets

*All paper trays are universal, accepting 5.5" x 8.5" – 12" x 18". Prints full-bleed 11" x 17" images on 12" x 18" paper.

MAXIMUM/MINIMUM INPUT CAPACITIES

RADF	100 originals
Minolta Rated RADF Speed	55 opm
Scanner Resolution	600 dpi
Paper Weight	16 lb.-110 lb. index

OUTPUT CAPACITIES

FN-113 Finisher	3,000 sheets
FN-6 Booklet Finisher	2,500 sheets

COPIER FEATURES

Hard Drive	Optional 20 GB
Scan-Once-Print-Many	Yes
Sheet Insertion Mode	Yes

NETWORK PRINTING

Controller	Pi6500e (EFI Fiery X3e)
Printer RAM	128 MB
Network Interface	10/100BaseT Ethernet, opt. Token Ring
Supported NOS	Win 9x, 2000, Me, XP, NT 4.0; Mac
Print Drivers	PCL 6, Adobe PS 3 (optional)

SOFTWARE

- *PageScope Net Care* network-printer management.
- *PageScope Cabinet* document-management software.
- *PageScope Network Setup* for basic network setup of MIB-compliant printers.
- *PageScope NDPS Gateway* network-printer management for Novell NetWare 5.x, 6.x networks.
- *PageScope EMS Plug-In* for managing Minolta printers using Enterprise Management Software (EMS).

NETWORK SCANNING

Color scan-to-file	No
Scan-to-e-mail	Yes
Scan-to-FTP-site	Yes
Scan-to-desktop	Yes
Scan-to-Internet fax	Yes
Scan-to-fax	No
QWERTY-style keypad	No
Authenticated e-mail	No

LDAP-compatible No

OTHER NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

- **PrintMe Compatibility** – Enables users to print e-mail messages and Internet documents from any mobile device, providing support for WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) and C-HTML (Compact HTML) standards for secure access to cell phones, pagers and other handheld devices.
- **e-mail Queries** – Users may send the device an e-mail containing a command for the device to e-mail back to the user various information, such as device setup information, page counters, PM counters, service codes, average black area coverage.

OTHER CONFIGURATIONS

None

DIMENSIONS, WEIGHT AND POWER

Height	45.6"
Width	26"
Depth	31.6"
Weight	446 lbs.
Power	120 V, 20 A
Dedicated Outlet	Yes

SOLD THROUGH

Authorized Minolta Dealers, Minolta Direct Branches (MBS)

IMAGE QUALITY

Image-quality samples were produced using a variety of applications. Image quality was measured from images produced using the default automatic settings.

	Minolta DiALTA Di551			
Copier Optical Density	1.526			
Copy Resolution - (Minimum line pair reproduced per millimeter [lp/mm])	6 lp/mm			
Printer Resolution - (Horizontal/vertical point lines produced)	3 pt			
Copier Halftone Reproduction - (Moiré effect noted in auto mode expressed as line screen/halftone)	150/20%, 30%, 50% 133/20%, 30%, 50% 120/20%, 30%			
Minimum Copier Halftone Reproduced - (Before white)	150 line screen/5%			
Maximum Copier Halftone Reproduced - (Before black)	120 line screen/95%			
Printer Halftone Reproduction - (Using an original with halftones ranging from 10% to 100% coverage in 10% gradations)	Printer halftone gradations were even.			
Positive/Negative Line Reproduction - (Discernable differences between line widths when printed in widths ranging from 1 - 6 pts.)	Positive		Negative	
	1, 2		1, 2, 3	
Positive/Negative Dot Reproduction - (Percent of correctly printed 1 and 2 pixel positive/negative dots)	1 Pixel		2 Pixel	
	Positive 100%	Negative 0%	Positive 100%	Negative 10%

Image-Quality Discussion

In testing, the Minolta DiALTA Di551 produced output with above-average density. (Note that, in general, among digital imaging devices tested by IATSD, digital-copier image density has been improving compared to that produced by analog and digital units from five years ago.)

In testing, output produced by the Di551 displayed average production of fine detail (in both print and copy modes), and displayed *above-average* production of line work (in both print and copy modes).

NETWORK-PRINTER PRODUCTIVITY

IATSD determined printer productivity using its controlled Windows 2000 local area network using a Windows 2000 Professional client. Since printer productivity involves many variables (such as network hardware/software throughput efficiency, network-queue polling times, network-server processing power and computer-workstation processing power), the printer-productivity test results below may be difficult to replicate. Productivity tests were performed using a 10-page Microsoft Word text document. Timings were performed using default printer settings. Timing began from the “click of the mouse” until the complete exit of the print.

	Minolta DiALTA Di551	
Paper Source/Feed/Output	LCT/Long-edge/Finisher	
Print Driver	PCL 6	PostScript Level 3
Simplex First Page Out Time	18.34 seconds	9.19 seconds
1 Set Simplex	21.1 ppm	27.2 ppm
3 Sets Simplex	35.2 ppm	40.3 ppm
5 Sets Simplex	40.7 ppm	46.2 ppm
10 Sets Simplex	46.1 ppm	49.4 ppm
Duplex First Page Out Time	21.01 seconds	11.36 seconds
1 Set Simplex to Duplex	16.0 ppm	19.3 ppm
3 Sets Simplex to Duplex	28.9 ppm	32.2 ppm
5 Sets Simplex to Duplex	34.5 ppm	38.4 ppm
10 Sets Simplex to Duplex	40.9 ppm	43.5 ppm

Overall, the Di551 was most productive in PostScript mode. This is not surprising since IATSD believes that the controller is optimized for PostScript, not PCL.

IATSD “Snapshot” of Printer Productivity Test Results

In the chart below, the 55-ppm Di551’s printer productivity is compared to that of two devices tested by IATSD, one rated at 50 ppm, the other at 60 ppm.

	PCL Simplex (Sets)					PCL Duplex (Sets)					PostScript Simplex (Sets)					PostScript Duplex (Sets)				
ppm*	FPOT**	1	3	5	10	FPOT	1	3	5	10	FPOT	1	3	5	10	FPOT	1	3	5	10
50	10.4	26.4	39.4	43.3	46.8	15.5	22.3	36.0	40.7	45.2	14.8	22.1	35.9	40.7	45.2	20.7	18.7	32.6	38.1	43.5
55***	18.3	21.1	35.2	40.7	46.1	21.0	16.0	28.9	34.5	40.9	9.2	27.2	40.3	46.3	49.4	11.4	19.3	32.2	38.4	43.5
60	11.1	28.0	42.9	49.4	54.6	13.8	23.6	40.0	46.4	52.6	13.1	27.1	42.5	48.2	54.2	13.1	23.3	39.1	45.6	52.5

*Pages Per Minute

**First Page Out Time (seconds)

***Minolta Di551 test results.

COPIER PRODUCTIVITY

Jobs were timed from the press of the “Start” button until the complete exit of the copy using the document feeder (when applicable) and default automatic settings.

	Minolta DiALTA Di551
Paper Source/Feed/Output	LCT/Long-edge/Finisher
Simplex First Copy Out Time	12.81 seconds
1 Set Simplex	35.5 ppm
3 Sets Simplex	45.5 ppm
5 Sets Simplex	48.3 ppm
10 Sets Simplex	50.6 ppm
Duplex First Copy Out Time	14.98 seconds
1 Set Simplex to Duplex	23.1 ppm
3 Sets Simplex to Duplex	35.5 ppm
5 Sets Simplex to Duplex	39.8 ppm
10 Sets Simplex to Duplex	44.4 ppm

IATSD “Snapshot” of Copier Productivity Test Results

In the chart below, the 55-ppm Di551’s copier productivity is compared to that of two devices tested by IATSD, one rated at 50 ppm, the other at 60 ppm.

Simplex Copies (Sets)						Duplex Copies (Sets)				
cpm*	FCOT**	1	3	5	10	FCOT	1	3	5	10
50	8.0	29.4	41.6	44.8	47.7	13.3	24.3	37.6	42.0	46.0
55***	12.8	35.5	45.5	48.3	50.6	14.9	23.1	35.5	39.8	44.4
60	6.8	29.5	48.9	53.0	56.8	13.8	25.3	42.0	48.0	53.9

*Copies Per Minute

**First Copy Out Time (seconds)

***Minolta Di551 test results

PRINT DRIVERS

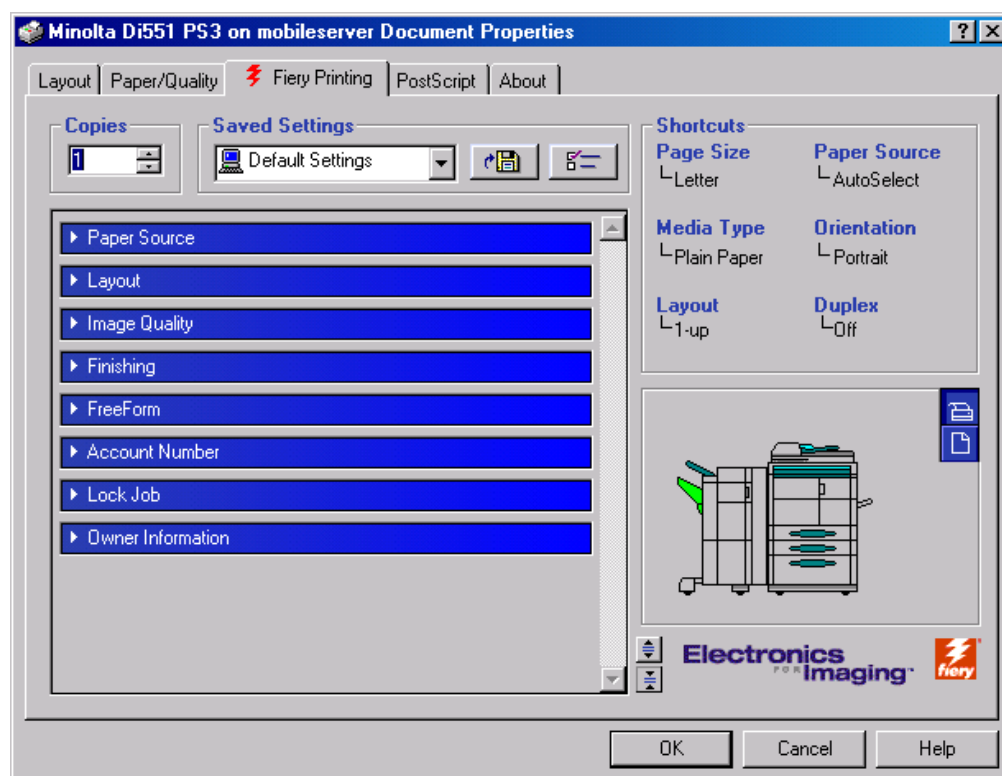


Figure 1 – The Di551’s PostScript print driver’s first (main) tab, which provides various options. Convenient “Shortcuts” on the main tab allow the user to easily program virtually any print job.

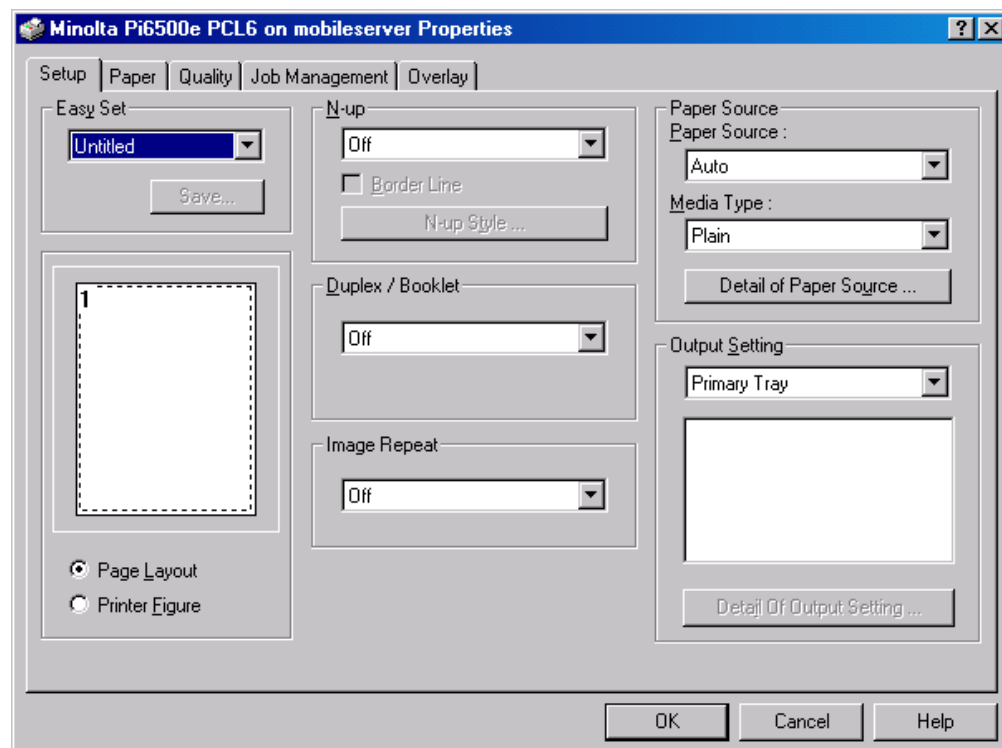


Figure 2 – The Di551’s PCL 6 print driver. This is the first (main) tab.

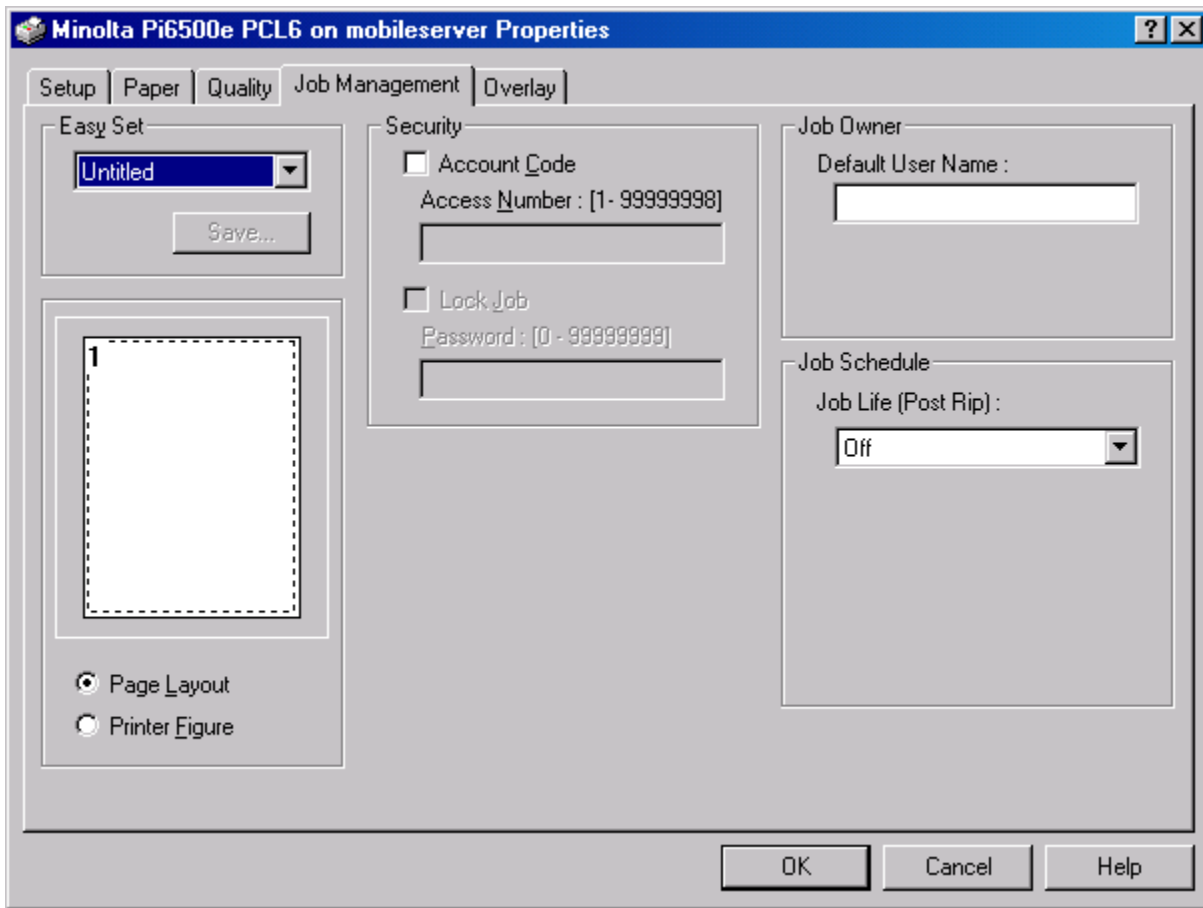


Figure 3 – The Minolta Di551’s PCL 6 print driver, above indicating various job-management functions, such as secure printing.

Print-Driver Discussion:

The PostScript and PCL print drivers feature dissimilar user interfaces. However, in contrast to the standard Adobe PostScript print driver (which is not very easy to use), Minolta’s Adobe PostScript driver is the best PostScript driver that IATSD has evaluated to date. The PostScript driver features convenient “shortcuts” on the main tab that allows the user to program nearly any print job with relative ease. It also features bi-directional communication and indicates currently installed paper types, levels and sizes.

PRINTER-MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Print Drivers	PCL 6, Adobe PostScript Level 3
PageScope NetCare	Runs on either a network server or client computer workstation, and is accessed via standard Web browser, providing remote management of network printers compatible with Management Information Base (MIB). <i>PageScope NetCare</i> displays a graphic of the printer, its current status, current printer settings, and installed options. It also displays counters for pages printed, pages scanned, and number of errors. With <i>PageScope NetCare</i>, administrators may also configure network-device settings. Also provided are automatic e-mail messages indicating printer/copier problems, such as device errors, empty toner, empty paper drawers, etc. Administrators can specify who will receive these messages, and what type of alerts the recipient will receive (for instance, a recipient located near the device might only receive messages indicating that the paper drawers are empty). Supports Microsoft Windows 98, Me, 2000, XP; Solaris; and Linux.
PageScope Cabinet	Document-management software for receiving and viewing scanned documents. With <i>PageScope Cabinet</i>, documents are conveniently displayed as thumbnail images for easy identification. The software features easy “drag and drop” operation, so that scanned documents may conveniently be “dropped into” different applications, such as an e-mail application. Users may also: • Attach keywords and markers to scanned documents in order to make searching for documents easier. • Merge scanned documents into a single file. • Combine various scanned documents and image files into a single Adobe PDF or TIFF file. • Import and manage images obtained from TWAIN-compatible devices. • Send scanned documents as attachments to e-mails, or as PC-fax attachments.
PageScope Network Setup	Software utility for basic network setup of MIB-compliant printers using TCP/IP or IPX protocol. With <i>PageScope Network Setup</i>, administrators may verify and change printer's network and printer settings. Administrators may also use <i>PageScope Network Setup</i> to set up a peer-to-peer network (users print directly to the device, without going through a network server). Supports Microsoft Windows 95, 98, Me, NT 4.0, 2000 and XP.
PageScope NDPS Gateway	Minolta PageScope provides a Novell-certified NDPS (Novell Distributed Print Services) gateway that supports Novell NetWare 5.x and 6 LANs. Provides automatic detection of Minolta network devices from within <i>NetWare Administrator</i> utility.
e-mail Queries	e-mail Queries – Users may send the device an e-mail containing a command for the device to e-mail back to the user various information, such as device setup information, meter counts (including scans), PM counters, service codes, average black area coverage, paper sizes printed on (both copier and printer modes), originals scanned through feeder.
PageScope NDPS Gateway	Minolta PageScope provides a Novell-certified NDPS (Novell Distributed Print Services) gateway that supports Novell NetWare 5.x and 6 LANs. Provides automatic detection of Minolta network devices from within <i>NetWare Administrator</i> utility.
PageScope EMS Plug-Ins	Plug-in solutions for managing Minolta printers using Enterprise Management Software (EMS) include Hewlett-Packard's "OpenView," Tivoli's "NetView," Computer Associates' "Unicenter TNG," and Microsoft MMC.

Command WorkStation	Provides remote-printer management, automatically identifying network printers equipped with a Fiery controller, and enabling administrators to choose how to display printer information. <i>Command WorkStation</i> provides: • Management of print jobs. • Thumbnail and full-screen job previews for print-job management. • Load balancing for maximizing printing resources. • Archiving of files for accessing and re-printing later. • A <i>Job Log</i> provides detailed information on each print job. • Archiving of selected print jobs for retention and reprinting. • Merge and/or edit “RIPped” jobs for reprinting or customizing.
Fiery WebTools	<i>Fiery WebTools</i> is a browser-based suite of device- and job-management software, and includes <i>WebSpooler</i>, <i>Status</i>, <i>WebSetup</i>, <i>WebLink</i>, <i>Installer</i>, <i>Web Downloader</i> and <i>WebScan</i>. <i>Fiery WebTools</i> enables users to manage print jobs in various ways, such as merging print jobs, editing them and previewing them. <i>Fiery WebTools</i> also indicates print jobs' current status. Administrators may remotely configure printers, and select which utilities will be available to users. <i>WebSpooler</i> is similar to <i>Command Workstation</i>, and enables administrators and users to monitor and manage print jobs. They may also use Web Spooler to re-print print jobs without the printer having to again process the job, to change print-job settings, and merge print jobs (regardless of the software application with which they were created). Also provides job-tracking and cost-accounting functions. <i>WebLink</i> provides users with real-time print-job and device status, enabling bi-directional communication between the user and the printer.
Fiery Remote Scan	Plug-in modules for supported TWAIN-compliant application software that enables users to scan documents, and then import them directly into their software application.
Fiery Spooler	For Apple Macintosh systems only. Administrators may view the order and priority of print jobs, customize printer settings for jobs, delete jobs, and move jobs between queues. May also be used to view job-accounting information.
DocBuilder Pro	This optional document-management imposition software enables users to arrange the pages of the print job in special layouts for folding, binding, and/or cutting after printing.



- ▶ Readme
- ▶ PageScope SOFTWARE Install
- ▶ Acrobat Reader Install

↑ EXIT

PageScope SOFTWARE Install

- ▶ PageScope Net Care
- ▶ PageScope Cabinet
- ▶ PageScope Network Setup
- ▶ PageScope EMS Plug-In
- ▶ PageScope NDPS Gateway

↑ EXIT

Figures 4-5 – The Di551's PageScope software suite, which includes PageScope Net Care, Cabinet, EMS Plug-In, and NPDS Gateway.

Device Model	IP Address	Status	Nickname
Canon iR8500 /P	192.168.1.17	Unknown	iR8500
RICOH Aficio AP3800C V.1.05 / RI...	192.168.1.29	Ready	Aficio AP3800C
Canon iR3300i /P	192.168.1.16	Unknown	iR3300i
Canon iR6000 /P	192.168.1.9	Ready	iR5000
Samsung Network Printer	192.168.1.25	Ready	SEC0000f0affca
RICOH Aficio 1045 5.21 / RICOH ...	192.168.1.13	Ready	Aficio 1045
Fiery X5 85BW-M	192.168.1.11	Ready	

Figure 6 – The Di551's PageScope NetCare software indicating the status of various MIB-compliant printers on the network.

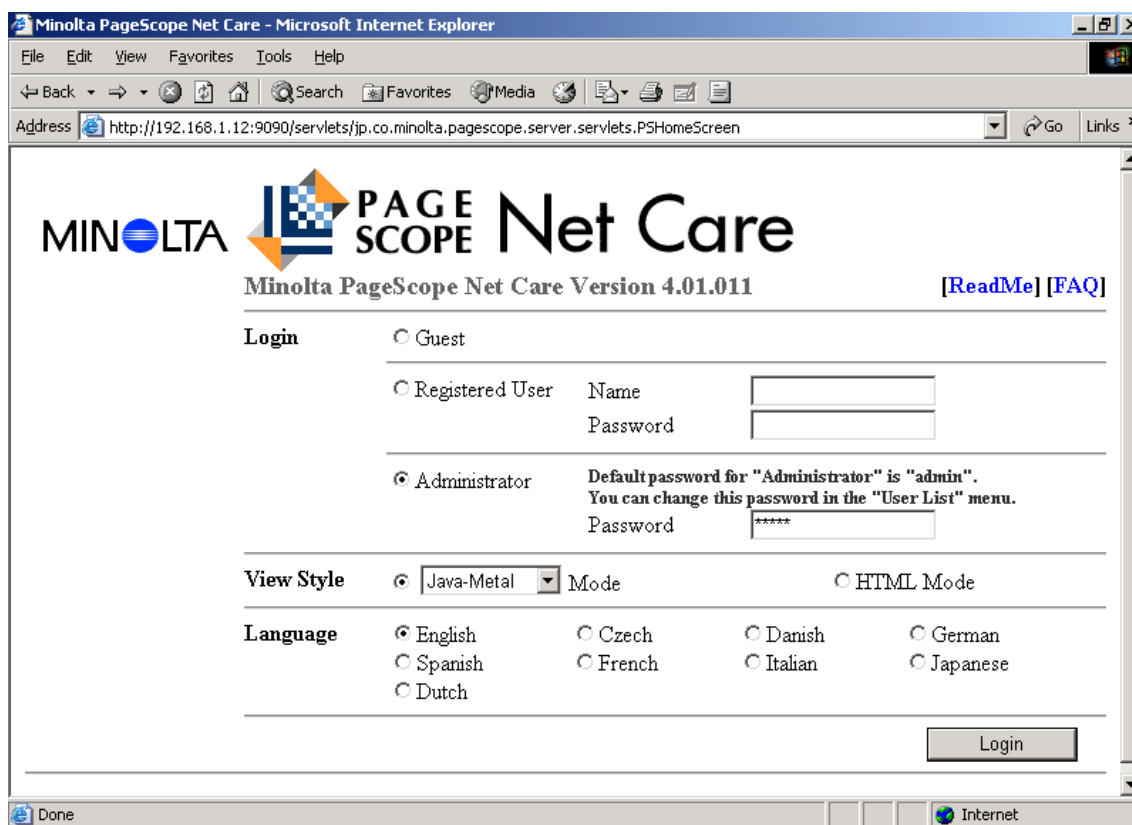


Figure 7 - The Di551's PageScope NetCare software's log-in screen.

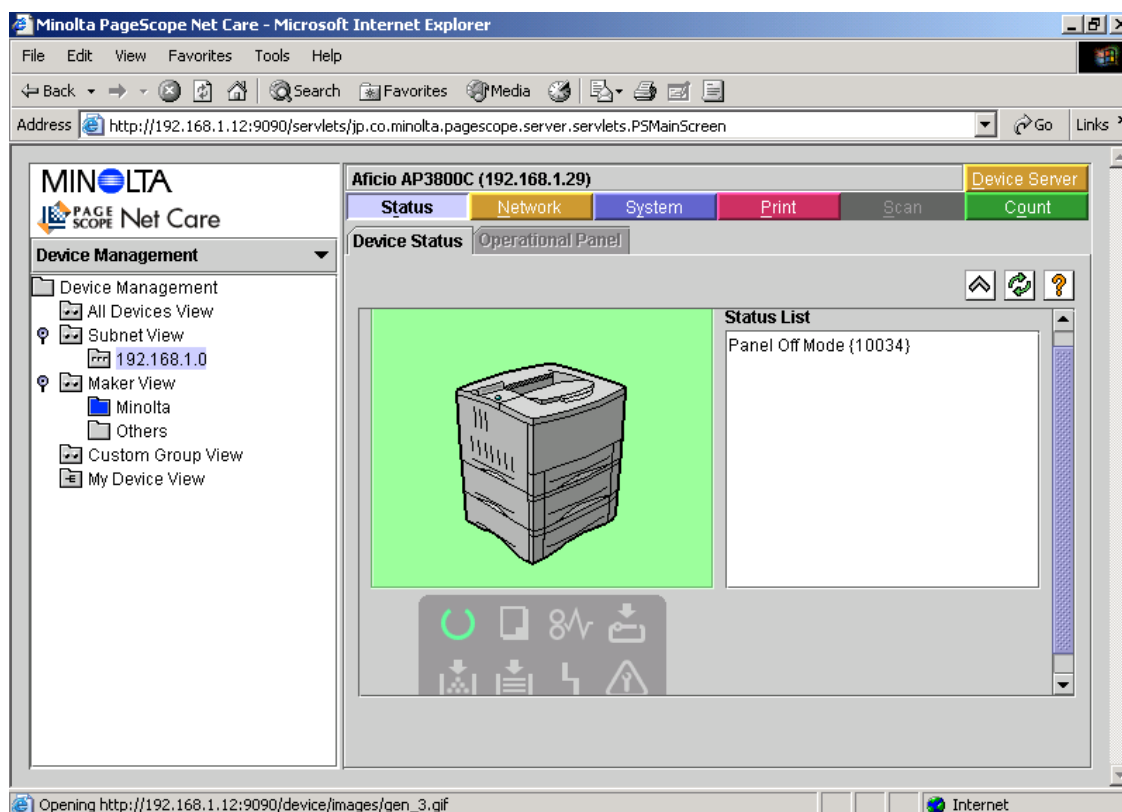


Figure 8 – The Di551's PageScope NetCare software provides a graphical representation of the device and the current device status.

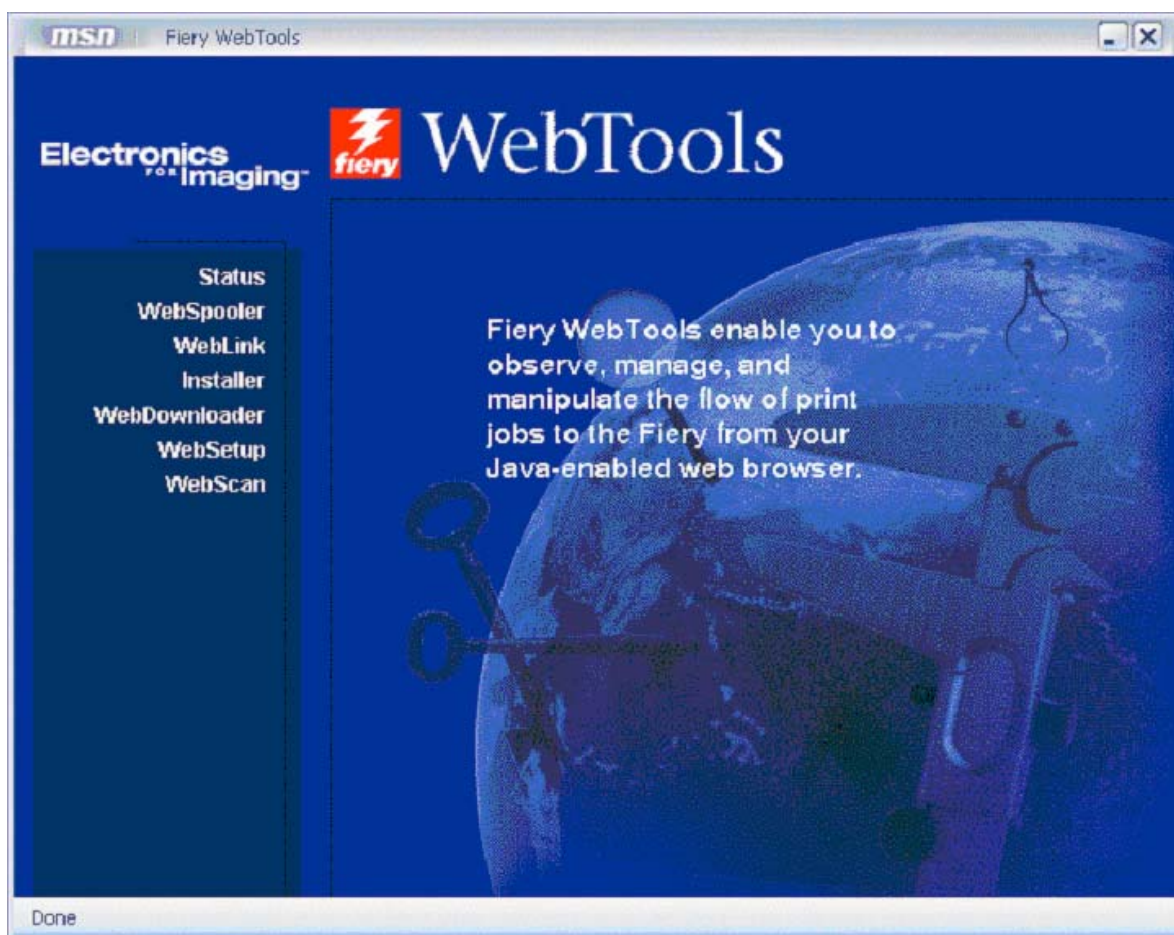
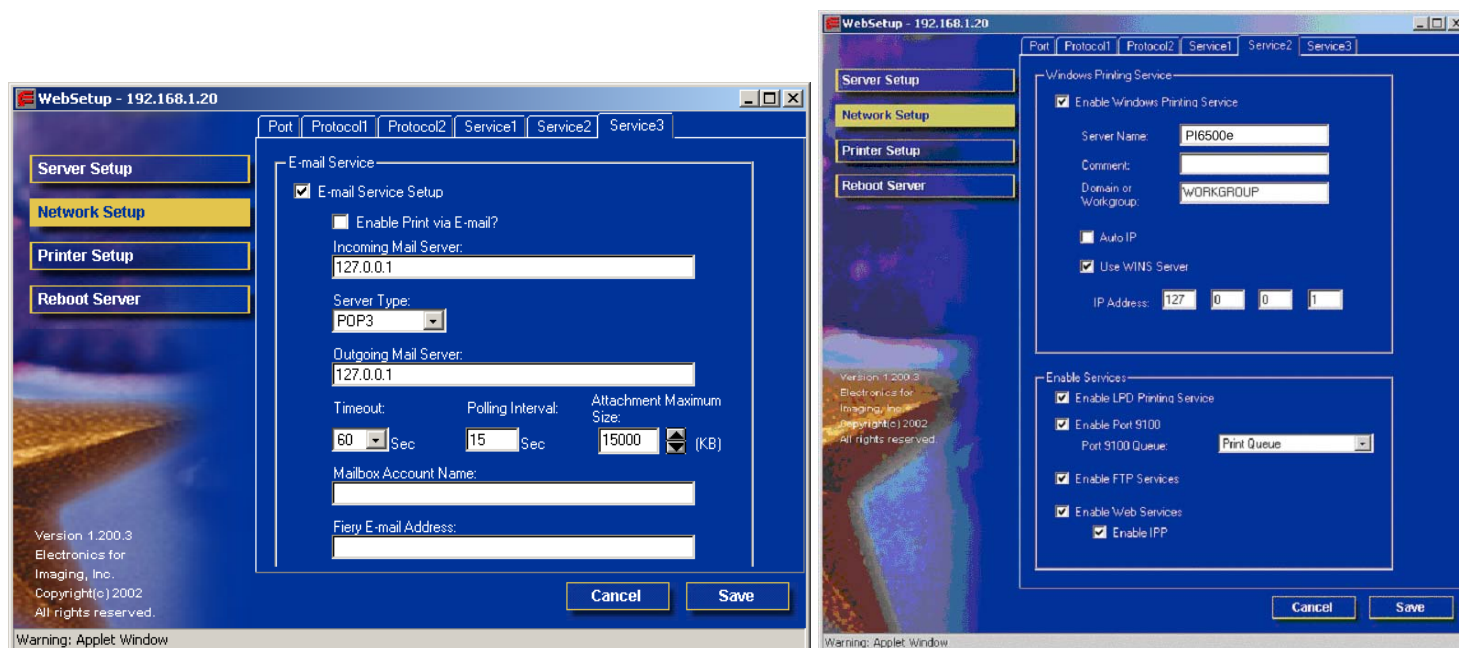


Figure 9 – Fiery WebTools provides various utilities for remotely configuring the printer and managing print jobs.



Figures 10-11 - With Fiery WebTools, network administrators may remotely configure printer settings, as seen above.

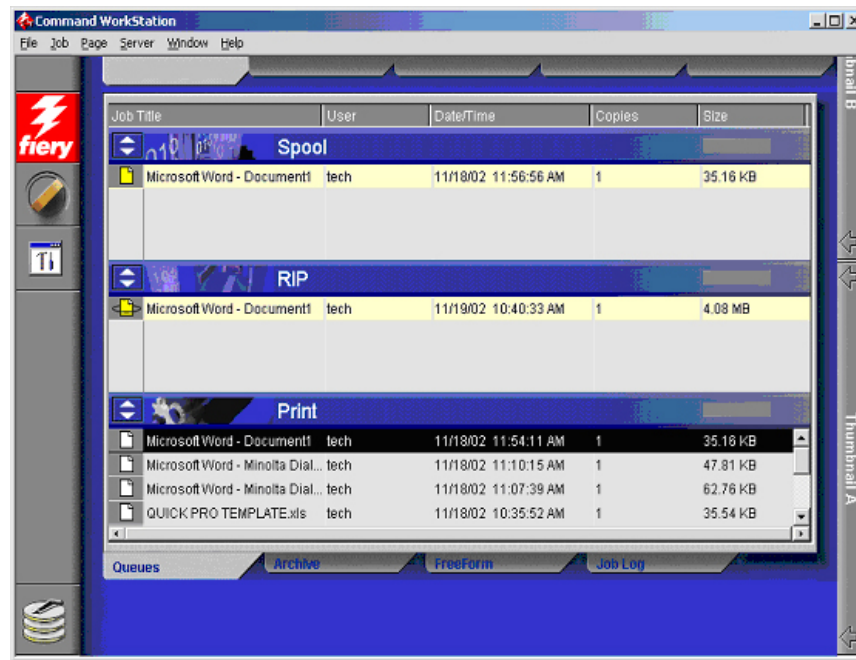


Figure 12 – Fiery WebTools' WebSpooler, which is used for re-printing spooled prints jobs.

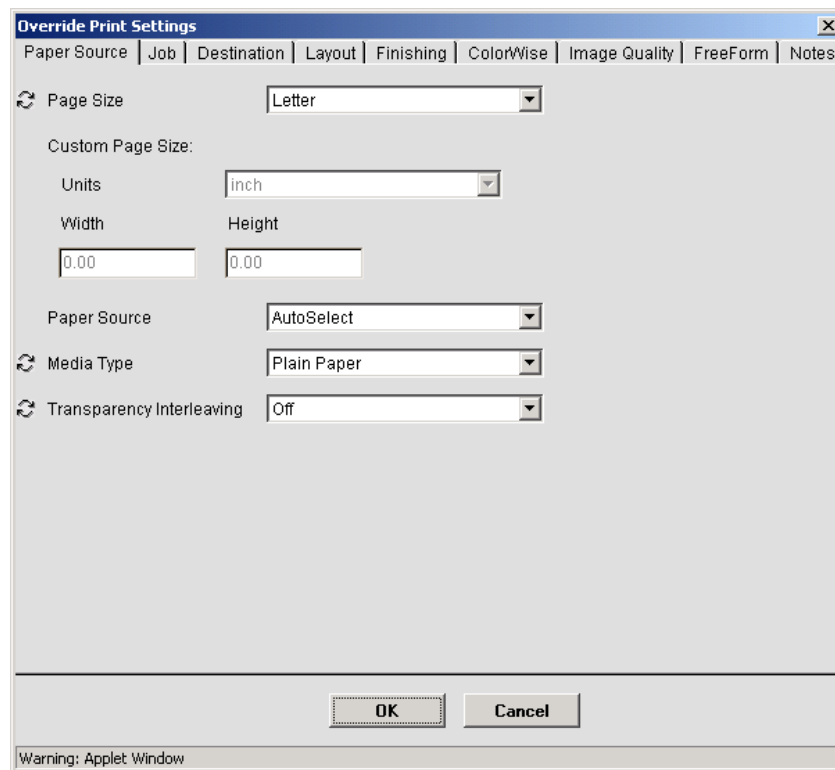


Figure 13 - Some of the settings available when using *WebSpooler* to reprint jobs from controller.

Printer-Management Software Discussion

Through the combination of *PageScope Suite* and *Fiery Tools*, the Di551 offers a wide-variety of printer management solutions.

NETWORK SCANNING

When equipped with optional network scanning, users can scan-and-send to these destinations:

- *Scan-to-e-mail addresses* - When sending to e-mail addresses, users can enter new addresses “on the fly,” or select from e-mail addresses contained in an address book set up by the administrator.
- *Scan-to-mailboxes* - Users may also scan documents, and then store them in the controller’s mailboxes (hard-drive memory). Users may then retrieve those documents from the hard drive using the touch screen, or from their desktop using *Fiery RemoteScan*.
- *Scan-to-desktop* - Users can send scanned documents to workstations running *PageScope Cabinet* FTP server.
- *Scan-to-FTP server* – Scanned images are sent to an FTP (File Transfer Protocol) server.
- *“Pull” to desktop* – As noted, from their workstations, users can retrieve scanned documents stored in electronic mailboxes on the controller’s hard drive using *Fiery RemoteScan*. Users can also use the *FieryScan* TWAIN driver to remotely operate the Di551 scanner and “pull” the scanned document directly into a software application such as Microsoft Word or Adobe Photoshop.

The Di551 is equipped with Minolta’s *PageScope Cabinet 1.6* software (refer to Figure 8) for viewing, managing, and saving scanned images at the computer desktop using easy-to-use thumbnails and a convenient “drag-and-drop” approach.

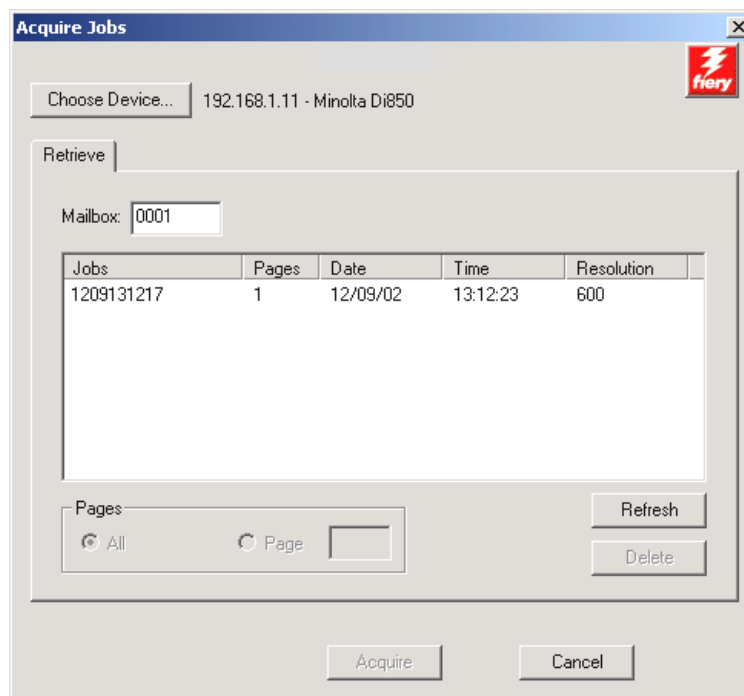


Figure 14 – *Fiery Remote Scan*, which enables users to retrieve scanned documents stored in the controller’s mailbox 0001 (i.e., stored in the controller’s memory). Scanned documents may then be imported into applications, printed, e-mailed, etc.

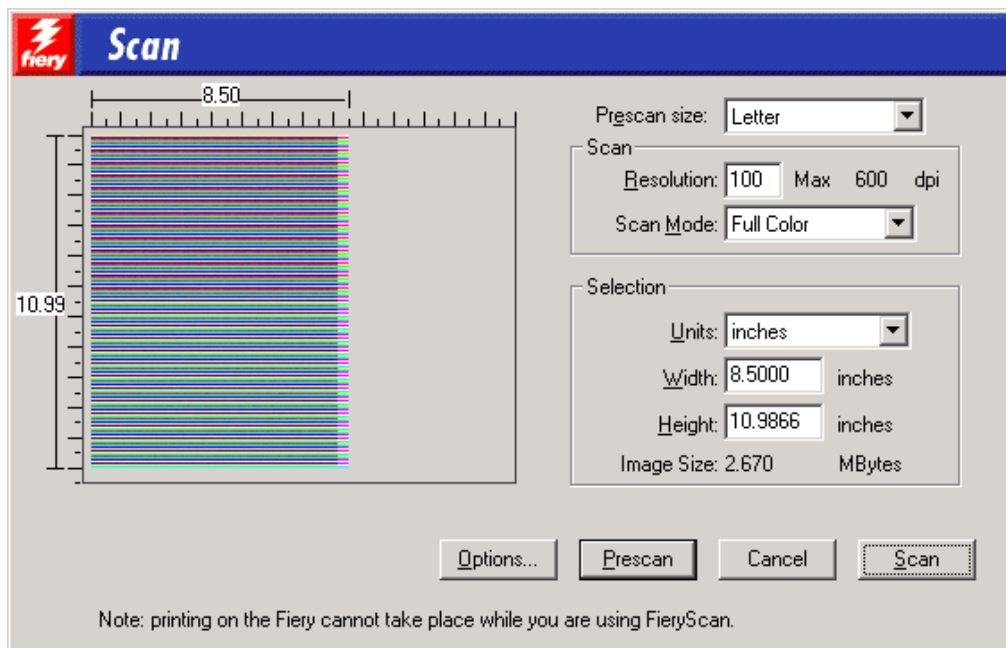


Figure 15 – The *FieryScan* TWAIN driver.

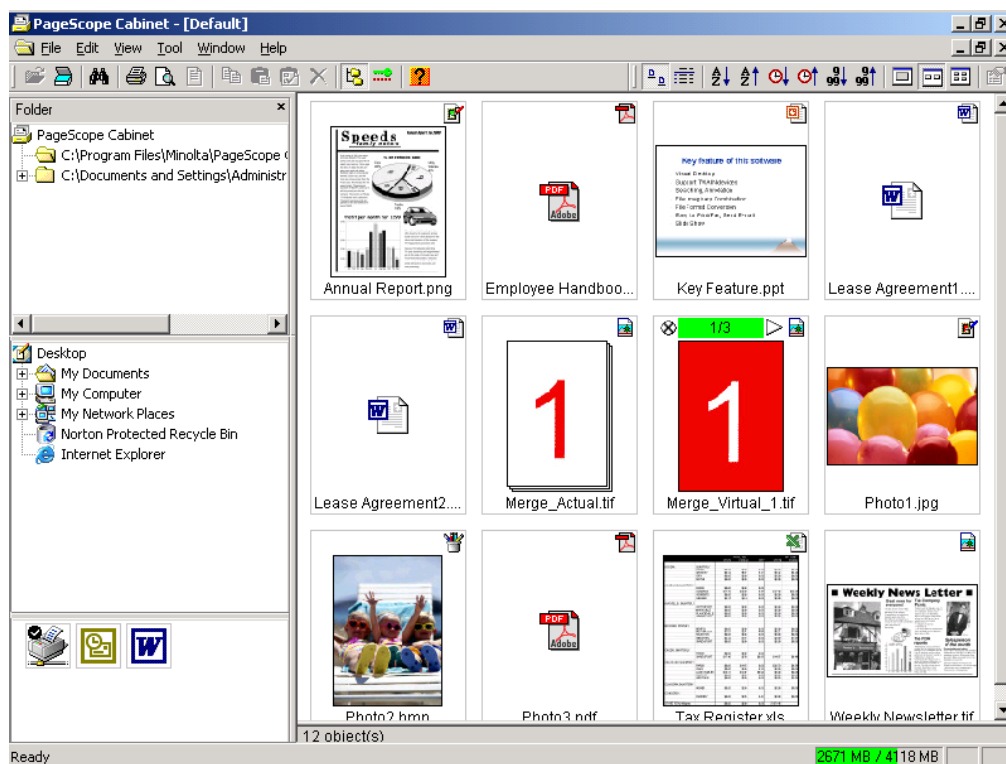


Figure 16 – *PageScope Cabinet 1.6* software may be used to combine, OCR, print, fax, view or e-mail documents stored in a variety of locations.

Network-Scanning Discussion

The Minolta Di551 is equipped with an easy-to-implement scanning solution. Users can scan documents and send them to desktops running the *PageScope Cabinet* FTP server, send them as e-mail attachments, send scanned documents to internal storage and then retrieve them using *Fiery WebScan*, and can “pull” scanned documents to the computer desktop using either *PageScope Cabinet 1.6* or *Fiery Remote Scan*. Note that the network scanning solution is not authenticated, or LDAP- and/or Global Address Book-compatible.

CONTROLS & MAINTENANCE



Figure 17 – The Di551's control panel.

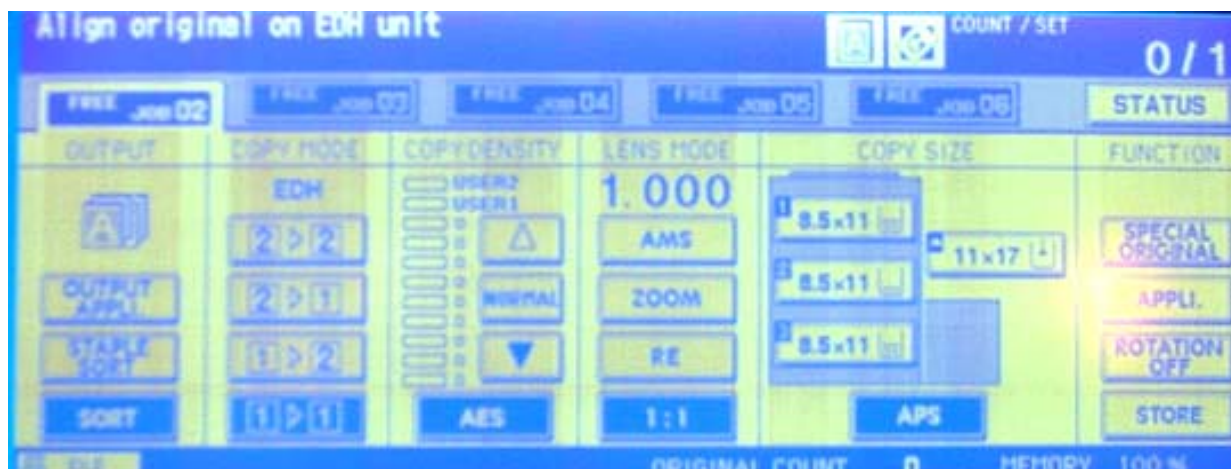


Figure 18 – The Di551's touch screen – this is the main screen.

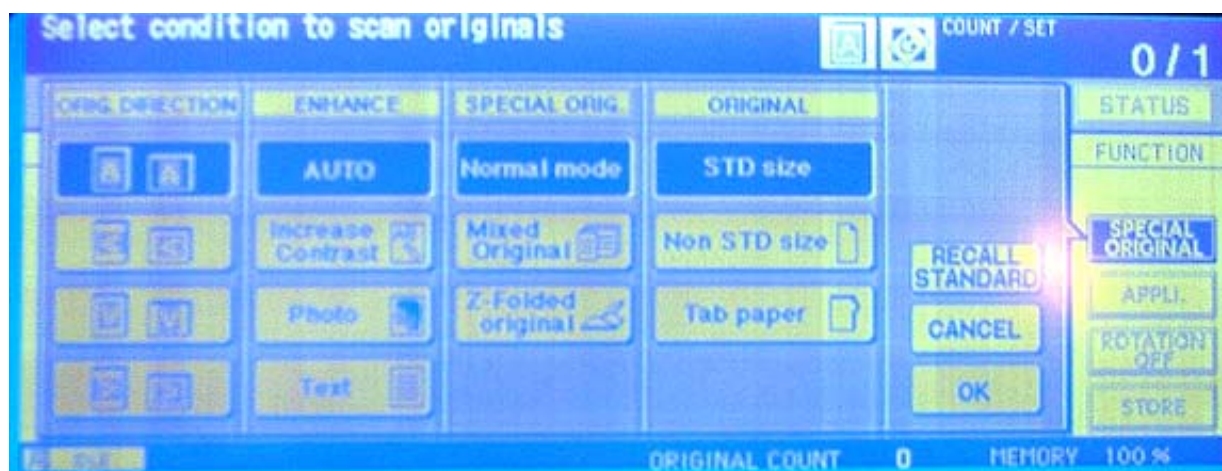


Figure 19 – The Di551's touch screen. Above are various options for the special original selection.



Figure 20 – The Di551's touch screen. Above are application functions.



Figure 21 – One of the Di551's paper trays.

Adding Paper: It is easy to add an entire ream of paper to the drawers as there are no corner separators or spring-loaded ramps with which to contend.

Changing Paper Sizes: The paper trays are easily adjusted. The user opens the paper-feed roller, and then adjusts the green adjusters to fit the paper size.



Figures 22-23 – Adjusting the Di551's paper-tray size guides. Note the liberal use of metal in key areas such as the paper guides and adjustment mechanisms.

Adding Toner: Adding toner is relatively easy. The user opens a front door, slides out the old toner bottle, and then slides in a new bottle.



Figure 24 – Removing the Di551's toner bottle.

Removing Misfeeds: If a finisher is installed, the Minolta DiALTA Di551 requires additional space to access misfeeds on both the right and left sides of the device.



Figures 25-27 – On the left is the Di551’s finisher misfeed access, in the center is the unit’s front-misfeed access, while on the right is the unit’s side misfeed access.

Controls and Maintenance Discussion

The DiALTA Di551 is equipped with paper drawers that are easy to adjust and load. The large toner bottle was easy to change and access to misfeeds was good. In summary, the Di551 is an easy machine to maintain on a day-to-day basis.

The Di551’s touch screen provides adequate resolution and contrast and is fairly easy to read. The main touch screen and copier features are logically arranged and provide users with direct access to nearly every important feature (although some of the underlying menus are a bit unusual). This means that the user interface should appeal to both new and experienced users alike.

IATSD “BOTTOM LINE”

Competitive Advantages

- Wide variety of printer-management solutions via *PageScope Light* and *Fiery WebTools*.
- Robust construction, especially in key areas such as paper drawers.
- Excellent Adobe PostScript print driver.
- Well-designed copier controls.
- Extensive output options include folding and tandem copy.
- E-mail queries provide for quick and easy retrieval of a variety of critical information, such as device setup information, meter counts (including scans), PM counters, service codes, average black area coverage, paper sizes printed on (both copier and printer modes), and originals scanned through feeder.

Competitive Disadvantages

- Comparatively slow PCL print speeds and duplex productivity.
- Touch screen could provide better resolution and contrast.
- Network scanning could be easier to use (particularly at the device).
- Network scanning is not authenticated or compatible with LDAP or global address books.

Most Suitable For:	Less Suitable For:
• Mid- to high-volume printing and copying applications.	• Short copy and print runs
• Simple network scanning applications with minimal destination management requirements.	• High volumes of duplex copies or prints
	• High volumes of PCL printing applications
	• Network scanning applications that require authentication or compatibility with LDAP or global address books.

Conclusion

Beneath the understated exterior of the Minolta Di551 lies a robust digital copier/printer. IATSD feels that there are few MFPs (if any) in the Di551's class that are as robustly constructed, particularly in the areas where users interact the most frequently with the unit, such as the paper drawers.

The Di551 is not the fastest in its class, and it does not have the best image quality. It costs thousands more than some of its competitors. However, when equipped with the Pi6500e controller and used in PostScript mode, the Di551 gives little real ground to any competitor and should be the MFP of choice for those who value quality construction, consistency, and durability over features and specs.

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